

OFAC

Office of Foreign Assets Control

TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SANCTIONS AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

This document is explanatory only and does not have the force of law. Executive Order 13581 contains the legally binding provisions governing the sanctions. This document does not supplement or modify the Executive Order.



AN OVERVIEW OF SANCTIONS AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

The President signed Executive Order 13581 (“[the E.O.](#)”), effective July 25, 2011, declaring a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States posed by the activities of significant transnational criminal organizations (“TCOs”). In issuing this E.O., the President invoked, among other authorities, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (“IEEPA”), the National Emergencies Act (“NEA”) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code.

II. PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS

The E.O. blocks the property and property interests of specific entities listed in its Annex and of individuals and entities determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to be significant transnational criminal organizations or to have provided material support for, or to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted on behalf of, such organizations.

The names of persons listed in or designated pursuant to E.O. 13581, whose property and interests in property are therefore blocked, are published following designation in the *Federal Register*. They are also incorporated into OFAC’s Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List (“SDN List”) with the identifier “[TCO].” The SDN List is accessible through the following page on OFAC’s Web site: www.treasury.gov/sdn. With certain exceptions, U.S. persons, and persons acting through the United States, are prohibited from transferring, paying, exporting, withdrawing, or otherwise dealing in the property and interests in property of an entity or individual listed on the SDN List. The property and interests in property of an entity that is 50% or more owned, directly, or indirectly, by a person on the SDN List are also blocked, regardless of whether the entity itself is listed in the Annex or designated pursuant to E.O. 13581.

III. PENALTIES

Civil monetary penalties of up to \$250,000 or twice the amount of the underlying transaction may be imposed administratively against any person who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of the E.O. Upon conviction, criminal penalties of up to \$1,000,000, imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both, may be imposed on any person who willfully commits or attempts to commit, or willfully conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission of a violation of the E.O.

If you have information regarding possible violations of the E.O., please call the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control at 202/622-2430. Your call will be handled confidentially.

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The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control also administers sanctions programs involving the Balkans, Belarus, Burma (Myanmar), Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rough Diamond Trading (Kimberley Process), Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Zimbabwe, as well as highly enriched uranium, persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, international narcotics traffickers, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, Terrorism List Governments, and weapons of mass destruction and missile proliferators and their supporters. For additional information about these programs or about sanctions involving Transnational Criminal Organizations, please contact:

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